



---

# Los Alamos National Laboratory sponsors 14th Hazmat Challenge

---

July 22, 2010



## ***Competition tests skills of hazardous materials response teams***

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, July 22, 2010—Fourteen hazardous materials response teams from New Mexico and Oklahoma will test their skills at the 14th annual Hazmat Challenge July 27-30 sponsored by Los Alamos National Laboratory. The challenge provides hazardous materials responders the opportunity to network and learn new techniques under realistic conditions in a safe environment.

Held at the Laboratory's Technical Area 49, the event challenges participants to respond to simulated hazardous materials emergencies involving a rail car, a clandestine laboratory, transportation and industrial piping scenarios, a simulated

radiological release, and a confined space, said Chris Rittner of the Laboratory's Emergency Operations Division. The finale of the Hazmat Challenge is an obstacle course; teams are graded and earn points based on their response skills.

The Laboratory began the Hazmat Challenge in 1996 as a way to hone the skills of its own hazmat team members. The competition now offers a training opportunity for other New Mexico and regional hazardous materials response teams. Winning teams receive a plaque.

A brief video about the 2008 Hazmat Challenge is on the [Laboratory's Web site](#) and is one of the more popular shows on the Lab's [YouTube channel](#).

For more information on this year's challenge, contact either Rittner at [crittner@lanl.gov](mailto:crittner@lanl.gov) or Rita Cordova at [ritac@lanl.gov](mailto:ritac@lanl.gov) by email.

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**

**[www.lanl.gov](http://www.lanl.gov)**

**(505) 667-7000**

**Los Alamos, NM**

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the Department of Energy's NNSA

